

Board of Selectmen Minutes
January 18, 2018 at 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Attendance: First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Selectman Brian Gordon, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene and Weston Residents.

This meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on Channel 79 and on our Town of Weston website.

- 1) **Call to Order:** Mr. Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7:30pm
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Fran Goldstein
- 3) **Discussion/decision to appoint Ken Coulson, Deidre Doran and/or Kirby Brendsel to the Sustainability Committee for terms to end December 31, 2018:** Mr. Coulson spoke about his experience with sustainable technologies and greenhouses. Mr. Grozinger asked him if he has attended any meetings, Mr. Coulson replied no, but stated he has spoken to some of the members and to the community. Ms. Doran spoke about her prior experience as chair of this committee, but she also stated she would like to be considered for an alternate nonvoting member. Mr. Brendsel stated his background is in alternate energy and sustainability. Mr. Grozinger moved to appoint Ken Coulson and Kirby Brendsel to the Sustainability Committee for terms to end December 31, 2018. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) **Proclamation honoring Nina Daniel:** Mr. Spaulding presented the Proclamation to Ms. Daniel. Ms. Daniel read her thank you note (see attached).
- 5) **Discussion/decision to appoint Deborah Bernstein to the Board of Ethics for a term to end December 31, 2019:** Ms. Bernstein stated she has experience in many areas such as management, finances and personnel. Mr. Gordon moved to appoint Deborah Bernstein to the Board of Ethics for a term to end December 31, 2019. Mr. Grozinger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- 6) **Discussion/decision to appoint Michele Albright to the Commission for Children and Youth:** No motion. This item is tabled.
- 7) **Resignation of Ellen Weyrauch from the Children & Youth Commission effective immediately:** Mr. Mr. Grozinger moved to accept the resignation of Ellen Weyrauch from the Children & Youth Commission effective immediately. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) **Mr. Gordon moved to add the following item to tonight's agenda: "Request from the Sustainability Committee to adopt an Ordinance Prohibiting Waste Associated with Natural Gas and Oil Extraction."** Mr. Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Jennifer Siskind, from Food & Water Watch, presented a PowerPoint on fracking (see attached). She explained that there is a state law again fracking put into place in 2014, but there are loopholes. Mr. Spaulding explained the process of adopting this ordinance would involve having Town Council review the ordinance and then going to a public hearing. The Selectman agreed to table a motion until the next meeting which will give them all time to review the proposed ordinance.
- 9) **Request for a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$11,200 for the design and bid phases of the Weston Fire House and Communications Building Roof replacement project:** Chief John Pokorny and FD President Craig Cohen both stated the roof has been deteriorating for years. Mr. Luiz stated that he has asked the Building Committee to put out a bid request and select a contractor as soon as possible so this work can be completed by next winter. Mr. Luiz also stated that the Board of Finance has already approved this supplemental appropriation. Mr. Gordon moved to authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$11,200 for the design and bid phases of the Weston Fire House and Communications Building Roof replacement project. Mr. Grozinger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 10) **Mr. Grozinger moved to add the following item to tonight's agenda: "Revisions to the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Review Schedule."** Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Luiz reviewed the changes proposed in the schedule which included the proposed referendum – moving it to a Saturday in order to make it easier for residents to come and vote. Mr. Grozinger moved to adopt the revisions to the Fiscal year 2018-2019 Budget Review Schedule as presented. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11) **Discussion/decision about a proposed dog park:** Town Engineer, John Conte, presented drawings and studies based on a new entrance to the proposed

dog park via Lords Highway instead of Davis Hill Road. This newly proposed access way is better graded than Davis Hill, would be more cost effective since asphalt millings (material already owned by the town) could be used on the access way instead of paving. Mr. Conte presented other facts like well-draining soil, no flood areas or wetlands. Mr. Conte also stated this new entrance would provide a one-time entrance into the entire Moore Property in case anything else was ever developed in the future. Mr. Conte explained only one tree would need to be removed for this new access way and parking lot. Mr. Luiz informed residents that all of the supporting documents and maps that Mr. Conte presented are available for viewing on our town website. Mr. Grozinger stated he is hesitant to put the Dog Park on the Moore Property as he values the great open space. He further stated that he is against using the Moore Property for the proposed dog park. Mr. Gordon stated that he is in favor of and supports a town vote. Animal Control Officer, Mr. Harper, asked why we cannot just have a town meeting now. Mr. Spaulding replied that there is process and procedures that need to be followed – 8-24 needs to be presented to Planning and Zoning then Conservation Commission needs to review, then a public hearing, then a town vote. Mr. Gordon moved to approve the resolution to “ESTABLISH A MACHINE BALLOT VOTE TO DETERMINE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOG PARK” (see full resolution attached to minutes). Mr. Grozinger seconded but added he would like the word “at” changed to “following” in last sentence. Motion carried unanimously.

12) **Discussion/decision regarding the establishment of a Marketing and Communications Advisory Committee:** Mr. Spaulding stated that this new Committee was suggested during their workshop – it would be more the tactical side of marketing and communications while the Board of Selectmen would be the strategic side. Mr. Grozinger moved to establish a Marketing and Communications Advisory Committee consisting of seven members and that the Committee is charged with providing advice to the BOS on marketing, public relations and communications on a project specific basis. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

13) **Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Gordon moved to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of December 4th 2017, December 8th, 2017 and December 21st, 2017 as presented. Mr. Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

14) **Approval of Property Tax Refunds:** Mr. Grozinger moved to approve property tax refunds totaling \$8,987.37 as presented. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

15) **First Selectman's update** – Mr. Spaulding stated he attending the West COG meeting and Legislative breakfast earlier in the day. He informed residents that the consensus is that everyone is nervous regarding the external pressures from the state. Work is being done to try and mitigate tax burdens.

16) **Adjournment:** Mr. Grozinger moved to adjourn at 10:02pm. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Minutes Approved: February 1, 2018.